



Aviation Management Council

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Aviation Management Council Meeting October 23, 2002

Present: Mike Martin (Chair), Tony Kern, Lynn Findley, Joe Frost, Barb Mahaffey, Mick McCurry, Morgan Mills, Dave Opalenik, Bob Roth, Bill Rush, Sam Stivison, Asher Williams, Rick Willis, Judy Ragain (Secretary).

The minutes from the May 16, 2002, meeting were approved with minor changes submitted by Mick McCurry. They will be put on the Web at <http://www.oas.gov/hq/director/amc/amc.htm>

Interagency Aviation Information Technology Issues and Opportunities (Dave Opalenik).

Dave presented the Interagency Planning Committee's paper outlining the action plan to enhance interagency collaboration efforts in information sharing. Rick Mills is the principle architect of this plan, which will help reduce software and operational costs. Some concerns were: What would this group do that NWCG doesn't? Many of these applications are not fire. Is there any link to what's been done? Is there a place for redundancy or separate systems? Data should only have to be fed in once. This plan doesn't take over any existing information system or develop a new system; it establishes a formal relationship with NWCG. The technical people have been heavily involved in creating this plan. Everyone deals with information and right now there is no way to easily search existing data. The AMC approved the development of a business management plan and contacting NWCG. The IRM Committee will draft a letter for AMC signature to be used when presenting the plan to the field. It will state that this plan is not policy but an exploratory effort, and will request them to share whatever information they can. A policy will have to be written and enforced after the plan is in place.

Geospatial Application (Joe Frost). Joe distributed the list of aviation geographic data links now being used and requested that they be a part of the proposed information technology plan. After considerable discussion, the AMC agreed that a business representative is needed to ensure that the right material be included. The AMC tasked the Business Management Oversight Team to set up a committee with representatives from the four fire bureaus to monitor this application.

Red Book Chapter 12: Aviation Operations/Resources (Asher Williams). Asher distributed the current Chapter 12 and the 2003 draft with changes that create more interfacing between the agencies. The field people use the Red Book as a reference. It's an operational guide, a way to transmit procedures, and BLM's fire line handbook. The revision is scheduled for printing next month and will be effective next year. After discussion, the AMC tasked the Aviation Operations Oversight Team with the responsibility of annual Red Book Chapter 12 review and to bring to the AMC any issues of concern, i.e., inconsistencies between the Red Book and policy manuals.

USFS C-23 Non-Certification Decision (Asher Williams). The USFS will fly the C-23s as public aircraft for training, taking firefighters to a fire, etc., everything except hauling passengers. This is contrary to the 1999 interagency agreement that said all aircraft would be certificated. C-23s won't be used for type rides. This is the second year of the 4-year program and reevaluation will be done in 36 months.

SEAT Operations Guide (Asher Williams). The ISOG is published by the SEAT Board as the IHOG is by the IHOG Working Group. The Red Book 2003 draft states that the USFS doesn't accept the ISOG as policy. Tony asked Asher to send the materials through Barnett for accepting the ISOG as FS policy. The ISOG is in each DOI fire bureau policy. DOI doesn't have an OPM about guides and handbooks showing publication dates. Two bureaus use SEATs: BIA and BLM. If others pick up a SEAT, they follow the guide. Mick will meet with the fire bureaus and, if necessary, will write an OPM about using the ISOG. Mike and Mick will meet on the issue of DOI handbooks and guides, and using guides as policy. The IA Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials (DOI) Handbook/Guide (USDA/FS) was issued as a handbook and guide to cover this policy issue.

Aviation Operations Oversight Team (Mick McCurry)

The Team met on 10/8/02 to discuss:

1. **Smokejumper Aircraft Screening and Evaluation Board.** Next year's chair is John Piekarksi, OAS.
2. **Federal Aviation Policy Issues.** Mick distributed copies and noted that safety publications had been added to the list. The USFS has safety alerts but no accident prevention or technical bulletins. More taskings will be addressed at the next meeting.
3. **Planned Activities for 2003.** The AMC signed this document after adding pilot background checks.
4. **Pilot Background Check (Tony Kern).** The GAO has just issued a report about reviewing pilot records prior to using that pilot on the likeliness of his/her having been involved in an accident. Tony will send a copy to Mick, who will check on resuming access to FAA records (available before 9/11/01).
5. **FAST and STAT.** FAST is based on the fire community and contains an aviation component; however, aviation doesn't receive a copy of FAST reports. STAT reports only to the aviation community. The Operations Oversight Team will schedule a meeting between aviation and the ground safety personnel to discuss aviation on the FAST team.

Business Management Oversight Team (Barbara Mahaffey)

1. **Planned Activities for 2003.** These are being developed.
2. **Draft OAS-FS MOU.** (See the May 16, 2002, minutes.) Mike and Tony will check on this.

Airtanker (C130A) Investigation. (Tony Kern) The USFS is awaiting the Blue Ribbon report and information from the FAA and the NTSB.

Next Meeting: January 2003. Mike and Tony will schedule the day.